

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (Twice amended) A method for forming an etched silicon layer comprising:

providing a first substrate having formed thereover a first silicon layer;

etching the first silicon layer to form an etched first silicon layer while
employing a plasma etch method employing a plasma reactor chamber in
5 conjunction with a plasma etchant gas composition which upon plasma activation
provides at least one of an active bromine containing etchant species and an active
chlorine containing etchant species, wherein within the plasma etch method:

(1) a cleaned plasma reactor chamber is seasoned to provide a seasoned
plasma reactor chamber having a seasoning polymer layer formed therein; wherein
10 the seasoning method is selected from the group consisting of dummy wafer
seasoning methods, product wafer in-situ seasoning methods and waferless
seasoning methods; wherein the waferless seasoning methods employ a bromine
and/or chlorine containing etchant gas;

(2) the first silicon layer is etched to form the etched first silicon layer
15 within the seasoned plasma reactor chamber; wherein the first silicon layer etch step,
when using an eight inch diameter substrate, employs:

a reactor chamber pressure of from about 1 to 500 mTorr;

a radio frequency source power of from about 10 to 2000 watts at a source
radio frequency of from about 2 to 13.56 MHz and an external bias power of up to
20 about 500 watts;

a substrate temperature and a seasoned plasma reactor chamber temperature of from about 20 to 200°C;

a hydrogen bromide flow rate of from about 10 to 200 sccm;

an oxygen flow rate of from about 1 to 50 sccm;

25 a nitrogen trifluoride flow rate of from about 1 to 50 sccm;

a backside cooling gas pressure of from about 1 to 50 torr and a flow rate of from about 2 to 50 sccm; and

a magnetic field of up to about 200 gauss; and

30 (3) the seasoning polymer layer is cleaned from the seasoned plasma reactor chamber to provide the cleaned plasma reactor chamber after etching the first silicon layer to form the etched first silicon layer within the seasoned plasma reactor chamber prior to etching a second substrate having formed thereover a second silicon layer to form an etched second silicon layer formed over the second substrate within the plasma reactor chamber while employing the plasma etch method in
35 accord with (1), (2) and (3).

27. (Twice amended) A method for forming an etched monocrystalline silicon layer comprising:

providing a first substrate having formed thereover a first monocrystalline silicon layer;

5 etching the first monocrystalline silicon layer to form an etched first monocrystalline silicon layer while employing a plasma etch method employing a plasma reactor chamber in conjunction with a plasma etchant gas composition which upon plasma activation provides at least one of an active bromine containing etchant

species and an active chlorine containing etchant species, wherein within the plasma
10 etch method:

(1) a cleaned plasma reactor chamber is seasoned to provide a seasoned
plasma reactor chamber having a seasoning polymer layer formed therein; wherein
the seasoning method is selected from the group consisting of dummy wafer
seasoning methods, product wafer in-situ seasoning methods and waferless
15 seasoning methods; wherein the waferless seasoning methods employ a bromine
and/or chlorine containing etchant gas;

(2) the first monocrystalline silicon layer is etched to form the etched
first monocrystalline silicon layer within the seasoned plasma reactor chamber;
wherein the first monocrystalline silicon layer etch step, when using an eight inch
20 diameter substrate, employs:

a reactor chamber pressure of from about 1 to 500 mTorr;

a radio frequency source power of from about 10 to 2000 watts at a source
radio frequency of from about 2 to 13.56 MHz and an external bias power of up to
about 500 watts;

25 a substrate temperature and a seasoned plasma reactor chamber temperature
of from about 20 to 200°C;

a hydrogen bromide flow rate of from about 10 to 200 sccm;

an oxygen flow rate of from about 1 to 50 sccm;

a nitrogen trifluoride flow rate of from about 1 to 50 sccm;

30 a backside cooling gas pressure of from about 1 to 50 torr and a flow rate of
from about 2 to 50 sccm; and

a magnetic field of up to about 200 gauss; and

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cut

(3) the seasoning polymer layer is cleaned from the seasoned plasma reactor chamber to provide the cleaned plasma reactor chamber after etching the first monocrystalline silicon layer to form the etched first monocrystalline silicon layer within the seasoned plasma reactor chamber prior to etching a second substrate having formed thereover a second monocrystalline silicon layer to form an etched second monocrystalline silicon layer formed over the second substrate within the plasma reactor chamber while employing the plasma etch method in accord with (1), (2) and (3).

33. (Twice amended) A method for forming an etched polycrystalline silicon layer comprising:

providing a first substrate having formed thereover a first polycrystalline silicon layer;

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etching the first polycrystalline silicon layer to form an etched first polycrystalline silicon layer while employing a plasma etch method employing a plasma reactor chamber in conjunction with a plasma etchant gas composition which upon plasma activation provides an active bromine containing etchant species, wherein within the plasma etch method:

(1) a cleaned plasma reactor chamber is seasoned to provide a seasoned plasma reactor chamber having a seasoning polymer layer formed therein; wherein the seasoning method is selected from the group consisting of dummy wafer seasoning methods, product wafer in-situ seasoning methods and waferless seasoning methods; wherein the waferless seasoning methods employ a bromine and/or chlorine containing etchant gas;

(2) the first polycrystalline silicon layer is etched to form the etched first polycrystalline silicon layer within the seasoned plasma reactor chamber; wherein the first polycrystalline silicon layer etch step, when using an eight inch diameter substrate, employs:

- 20 a reactor chamber pressure of from about 1 to 500 mTorr;
- a radio frequency source power of from about 10 to 2000 watts at a source radio frequency of from about 2 to 13.56 MHz and an external bias power of up to about 500 watts;
- a substrate temperature and a seasoned plasma reactor chamber temperature of from about 20 to 200°C;
- C₃ cut²⁵ a hydrogen bromide flow rate of from about 10 to 200 sccm;
- an oxygen flow rate of from about 1 to 50 sccm;
- a nitrogen trifluoride flow rate of from about 1 to 50 sccm;
- a backside cooling gas pressure of from about 1 to 50 torr and a flow rate of
- 30 from about 2 to 50 sccm; and
- a magnetic field of up to about 200 gauss; and

(3) the seasoning polymer layer is cleaned from the seasoned plasma reactor chamber to provide the cleaned plasma reactor chamber after etching the first polycrystalline silicon layer to form the etched first polycrystalline silicon layer

35 within the seasoned plasma reactor chamber prior to etching a second substrate having formed thereover a second polycrystalline silicon layer to form an etched second polycrystalline silicon layer formed over the second substrate within the plasma reactor chamber while employing the plasma etch method in accord with (1), (2) and (3).